

RESOLUTION 133 (

Rev. ~~Marrakesh~~Antalya, 2002~~6~~)

Role of administrations of Member States in

~~promoting the management use-~~
of internationalized (~~multilingual~~) domain names

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (~~Marrakesh~~Antalya, 2002~~6~~),

bearing in mind

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the World Summit on the Information Society calls for a need to “implement programmes that allow for the presence of multilingual domain names and content on the Internet,” and to “strengthen cooperation between relevant bodies for the further development of technical standards and to foster their global development” [paragraph 53];

The Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society calls on governments, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to “promote the use of internationalized domain names in order to overcome barriers to access” [paragraph 13(d)] and “enhanced the capacity of indigenous people to develop content in their own languages.” [paragraph 23(k)]

Resolution 102 (Rev. ~~Marrakesh~~Antalya, 2002~~6~~) of this conference regarding the management of Internet domain names and addresses;

aware

- a) of the rapid developments towards the convergence of telecom-munications and the Internet;
- b) that Internet users are generally more comfortable reading or browsing through texts in their own language

;

- c) that there are challenges of intellectual property associated with the use of internationalized domain names
- ~~and addresses;~~

noting

- a) that it is estimated that in the coming years the majority of Internet users will prefer to conduct online activities in their own language;

- b) that the current domain name system mapping does not fully reflect the growing language needs of all Internet users;
- c) that further progress in the development and introduction of internationalized domain names in a stable and secure manner will help facilitate the expansion of the Internet and its benefits to people of all
[i]
languages;
- d) that other intergovernmental, international and regional organizations with key leadership functions and expertise in multilingualism are developing and administering programmes for the creation of multilingual Internet content in cooperation with Member States, the private sector, and civil society;-

emphasizing

- a) that the current and future management of the registration and allocation of Internet domain names and addresses must fully reflect the geographical and functional nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders, in particular of administrations, businesses and consumers;
- b) that Internet domain names and addresses, and more generally the Internet and global information networks, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to gender, race, religion or country of residence;
- c) that the methods of allocation of Internet domain names and addresses should not privilege any country or region of the world to the detriment of others;
- d) that the management of Internet domain names and addresses are a subject of concern for both governments and the private sector;
- e) the need for ITU to assist its Member States in appropriate bodies to promote the use of their languages for domain names~~and addresses;~~_;
- f) that strengthened cooperation among relevant bodies and experts to further develop technical standards that support all languages and scripts, and to foster their global deployment is essential to
[ii]
avoid any fragmentation of the Internet;

recognizing

- a) the existing role and sovereignty of ITU Member States with respect to allocation and management of their respective country code numbering resources;

b) the potential benefits of ongoing work within ITU-T, instructed to study internationalized domain names in cooperation with other relevant expert bodies (World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly, Resolution 48), in assessing the experiences and needs of Member States and Sector Members in this area;

c) the efforts of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), currently engaged in technical testing of internationalized top level domain names, and other relevant expert bodies to ensure that internationalized domain names are introduced in a secure and stable manner;

b) the role of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in guarding against misuse of intellectual property rights in the use of Member States' languages for domain names and addresses;

c) that ITU enjoys close cooperation with WIPO

;

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

1 to take an active part in all international discussions and initiatives on the management development and introduction of internationalized ~~of Internet~~ domain names ~~and addresses~~;

2 to take any necessary action to ensure the sovereignty of ITU Member States with regard to country code numbering plans and addresses will be fully maintained, as enshrined in Recommendation E.164 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, in whatever application they are used;

3 to promote effectively the role of Member States in the development and introduction of internationalized ~~ation of~~ domain names ~~and address~~ in their respective languages;

4. to support Member States in fulfilling the mandate of the Geneva Plan of Action to cooperate with relevant stakeholders and promote the use of internationalized domain names in order to overcome barriers to access;

45 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on this subject, indicating how such activities relate to the Strategic and Operational Plan and ITU Mission, the budgetary impact, and the degree of cooperation between ITU and other relevant organizations, drawing the required information wherever possible from existing sources, for distribution widely among Member States and Sector Members, and other groups involved;

65 to bring this resolution to the attention of WIPO and other relevant bodies, stressing the concerns and requests for assistance of Member States with regard to internationalized ~~(multilingual)~~ domain names ~~and addresses~~,

instructs the Council

to take appropriate measures in order to support the above-mentioned international discussions and collaboration ~~initiatives~~;

invites Member States

1 to participate actively, as far as possible, in the various international discussions on this matter, and to relay their views to the Secretary-General in regard to this work;

2 to increase awareness at national level among all interested non-governmental parties, and to encourage their participation in the entities coordinating on ~~managing~~ internationalized domain names ~~and addresses~~.

ENDNOTES

(For Background Information Only)

[\[i\]](#)

While other identifier systems exist, and new ones may emerge in the future, the text here and in the proposed revisions in Resolution 102 are not meant to suggest an expansion of the ITU efforts in this area.

[\[ii\]](#)

Source: *Chairman's Summary Report and Recommendations*, Joint UNESCO and ITU Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet, Geneva, 9-11 May 2006, p. 2. The report also notes: "While a lot of attention has been paid to solving technical problems related to Internet naming and addressing – which are likely to be properly addressed and resolved in a short time frame –, it is important to focus attention on fostering multilingualism of contents." p.2.